

excuse for such inclusion is found in the fact that these procedures may become requisite in cases of mesenteric thrombosis or embolism. Why not have described amputations which may be required in various lesions of the limbs which are included? A. P. C. A.

#### THE DIFFICULTIES AND EMERGENCIES OF OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.

By COMYNS BERKELEY, M.A., M.D., M.C. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), Obstetric and Gynecological Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital; Surgeon, Chelsea Hospital for Women, Senior Obstetric Surgeon, City of London Lying-in Hospital, etc., and VICTOR BOXNEY, M.S., M.D., B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), Assistant Obstetric and Gynecological Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, Surgeon, Chelsea Hospital for Women, etc. Second edition. Pp. 867; 302 illustrations. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1915.

THE authors have given in an almost encyclopedic form a description of and rules to govern the treatment of difficult and complicated cases in obstetrics. The affections of the various organs and body systems are taken up in order, and are followed by chapters on the diseases of the ovum, on hemorrhage, and on the various forms of dystocia and the abnormal puerperium. The well-written chapters on obstetric surgery embraces practically all operations performed during the process of reproduction. The diseases of the newborn child and the artificial feeding of infants are discussed in the concluding chapters.

That the scope of the book may be better recognized, it is noted that under diseases of the intestinal tract fourteen topics are discussed; under disorders of the nervous system there are grouped nineteen subheadings; the diseases and injuries of the newborn child include references to sixty-one conditions; we find a reference to ankylostomiasis, another to the marriage of first cousins. However, to those rare complications as hepatic abscess and rupture of splenic aneurysm during pregnancy but little space is given; we also find a full and reliable discussion of tuberculosis and syphilis. For obvious reasons no mention is made of the physiology and management of normal cases. Difficult labor is dealt with fully, all forms of fetal and maternal dystocia, and the methods for their relief being taken up at length. The authors mention six conditions where craniotomy in the living child is indicated. Probably only a few men possess fingers of the length of those on the hand illustrated in Fig. 156. The position of the hand illustrated in Fig. 169, portraying the operation of internal podalic version, is directly opposite that recommended in the text. The corkscrew position

of a pregnant woman for routine examination, Fig. 1, must necessitate some considerable ability of orientation on the part of the examiner. Chloroform, favored by the authors in labor with cardiac disease, is not the anesthetic of unanimous choice among American obstetricians, who also do not wholly agree with the authors as to the value of routine vaginal douching after normal labors.

Apart from these criticisms the book will be found to be fairly descriptive, and certain to be a practical and valuable aid to every practitioner of obstetrics.

P. F. W.

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THE NEWER PHYSIOLOGY IN SURGICAL AND GENERAL PRACTICE.

By A. RENDLE SHORT, M.D., B.S., B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.C.S., Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons, etc. Third edition; pp. 256. New York: William Wood & Co., 1915.

This book is an interesting collection of the most recent work bearing upon problems in physiology of direct practical importance to the physician and surgeon. The light of modern research is utilized to explain many of the phenomena met with in common practice. Among the most important questions discussed are the relation of vitamins to the occurrence of nutritional disturbances, such as beri-beri, scurvy, and rickets; surgical shock; the growth of bone; ductless glands; clinical physiology of the alimentary canal; the hemorrhagic diathesis; acidosis and diabetes; nerve regeneration.

In many of the conditions discussed, fallacies are exposed by the ray of science and valuable suggestions for rational treatment given. Thus the book is not only of interest in the abstract, but should be a direct practical aid to the practitioner in his daily work.

R. H. I.

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PAINLESS CHILDBIRTH. By MARGUERITE TRACY and MARY BOYD. Pp. 316; 19 illustrations. New York: F. A. Stokes Company, 1915.

THE recent sensational exploitation of twilight sleep by means of department-store lectures and feature articles in the popular monthly magazines has been followed by its presentation in book form. The title suggests the Utopian dream of the gravid woman. In a more or less haphazard manner the authors have combined references to foreign and American medical literature, remarks and abstracts of discussions on the topic and narratives of personal experiences with the method by several women. Much space is given to a description of the maternity clinic at Freiburg, and